

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5396

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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USMISSION GENEVA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD EAGR EEC US

SUBJECT: EC WINE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

REF: A. STATE 120458; B. EC BRUSSELS 3343

1. THE MISSION INFORMED DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL HIJZEN OF THE EC COMMISSION ON JUNE 22 THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS (BATF) ARE ABLE TO COME TO BRUSSELS THE WEEK OF JULY 2 FOR DISCUSSION OF THE WINE CERTIFICATION PROBLEM, AND THAT WE BELIEVED THIS VISIT WAS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE FOR CERTIFICATION OF US WINE.

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2. WE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE THAT SOME ARRANGEMENTS BE WORKED OUT TO PROVIDE FOR IMPORT OF US WINE SUBSEQUENT TO JULY 1. MISSION OFFICERS MENTIONED THREE POSSIBILITIES: (A) POSTPONEMENT OF THE COMMISSION REGULATION; (B) ADDITION OF SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR US WINES; (C) SOME INFORMAL ARRANGEMENT PROVIDING FOR ENTRY OF US WINE AT THE BORDER.

3. IN THIS LATTER CONNECTION WE TOLD HIJZEN THAT WE ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT, AFTER A TRIP OF COMMISSION OFFICIALS TO SOUTH AFRICA AND DISCUSSION WITH AN AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION HERE, BOTH SOUTH AFRICANS AND AUSTRALIANS HAD BEEN TOLD ORALLY THAT AUSTRALIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN WINE REGULATIONS COULD BE CONSIDERED AS MEETING COMMUNITY STANDARDS. ON THE BASIS OF THIS UNDERSTANDING, SOUTH AFRICA AND AUSTRALIAN APPARENTLY DO NOT HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

4. HIJZEN SAID HE COULD NOT REPLY IMMEDIATELY TO OUR REQUEST BUT WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS IN REGARD TO (A) POSSIBILITIES FOR HANDLING US IMPORT PROBLEM AFTER JULY 1, AND (B) THE ESTIMATE OF AN EARLY DATE BY WHICH COMMISSION OFFICIALS WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONDUCT SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH BATF OFFICIALS. THE COMMISSION BELIEVES THAT PRIOR TO THESE DISCUSSIONS THE COMMISSION EXPERTS WILL NEED TO HAVE STUDIED THE DETAILS PRESENTED IN THE US NOTE AS WELL AS THE SUBSTANCE OF US TREASURY WINE REGULATIONS. MISSION OFFICERS STRESSED THE NEED FOR A VERY PROMPT RESPONSE ON THESE TWO POINTS. GREENWALD

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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